AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 16, lines 6-10 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Figure 3 shows the alignment of the amino acid sequence for LmPDI with the protein disulfide-isomerase of ~~Trypanosoma brucei (T brucei~~ *Trypanosoma brucei* (*T. brucei*, GenBank accession no.: P12865, SEQ ID No: 4), ~~Hypocrea jecorina (H. Jecorina~~ *Hypocrea jecorina* (*H. jecorina*, 074568, SEQ ID No: 5), ~~Caemorhabditis elegans (C. elegans)~~ *Caemorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*, 017908, SEQ ID No: 6), ~~Chlamydomonas reinhardtii (C. reinhard~~ *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (*C. reinhard*, 048949, SEQ ID No: 7), ~~Drosophila melanogaster (D. melano~~ *Drosophila melanogaster* (*D. melano*, P54399, SEQ ID No: 8), ~~Cryptosporidium parvum (C. parvum~~ *Cryptosporidium parvum* (*C. parvum*, Q27553, SEQ ID No: 9), and ~~Homo sapiens (H, sapiens~~ *Homo sapiens* (*H. sapiens*, P072237, SEQ ID No: 10). The letters boxed in black indicate identical amino acids and those boxed in gray indicate similar amino acids. The "gaps" were introduced to obtain the maximum similarity between the aligned sequences and are indicated by dashes.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 19, lines 15-21 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Total RNA was extracted using the ~~"TRIZOL"~~ TRIZOL™ reagent (a mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate) (Gibco-BRL). PolyA$^+$ RNA was purified by passage through an oligo dT/cellulose column using a "poly A$^+$ RNA isolation kit" (Amersham-Pharmacia) following the manufacturer's instructions. 200 ng of mRNA ~~was~~ were used in a reverse transcription reaction of 20 µl containing 1 µM of an oligo(dT)$_{11}$MN primer, with M = A or C or G and N = A or C or G or T (Genset), 1X First Strand Buffer (Gibco-BRL), 5 µM dNTP (Amersham-Pharmacia), 10 U of ~~RNAsin~~ RNASIN™ (ribonuclease inhibitor) (Promega) and 200U of reverse transcriptase (Gibco-BRL).